



## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2024

**\*\*CORRECTED TO REFLECT UPDATED HOURS OF OPERATION\*\***

### **NEW LOCATION SERVING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES OPENS IN LA VERNE**

*L.A. County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Expands Service Area*

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) opened a new field office today in La Verne, adding yet another location to the list of areas where veterans and their families will be served.

***The office is located at the La Verne Community Center and will be staffed by a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) on Mondays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.***

Following an agreement with the City of La Verne, MVA and the city moved quickly to staff the location with a VSO and open for business. “As we continue to expand our footprint into the veteran community, we are thrilled to now be partnered with the City of La Verne,” said **MVA Director Jim Zenner**.

The expansion is part of a broader effort to meet veterans where they are, enabling them to more easily avail themselves of the resources and benefits to which they are entitled. Like other field offices, this location will feature a VSO accredited by the state to process disability claims and other benefits for veterans and their families.

This development follows a Feb. 6 motion by the Board of Supervisors allocating \$1.9 million to MVA for the creation of a new Homeless Services Division (HSD). Veterans who visit MVA field offices like La Verne and identify as homeless will then be connected to HSD for temporary and eventual permanent housing.

“This local field office is a wonderful resource that will make a big difference in the quality of life of our veterans,” said **Supervisor Kathryn Barger**. “I want to ensure our veterans know that help is available to them in their own community. They have sacrificed so much to serve our country—it is only fair that we provide accessible support tailored to meet their needs.”

Because MVA assists those filing claims with the Veterans Administration, new locations effectively expand the area serviced by the VA into underserved and remote localities.



“Expecting veterans to spend half their day in transit to a facility across the county places an undue burden on that veteran, rendering them less likely to seek the assistance they need and they deserve,” Zenner said. “Now, instead of bringing the veteran to the VA, in effect we’re bringing the VA to the veteran.”

The address of the La Verne Community Center is 3680 D Street, La Verne, Calif., 91750.

Media interested in an interview and/or tour of the new facility should contact W. Regen Wilson, MVA Public Information Officer, at 323.823.6896 or [wwilson@mva.lacounty.gov](mailto:wwilson@mva.lacounty.gov)

*The LA County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) provides assistance to L.A. County veterans, active service members and their families with resources, programs, services and state and federal benefits, including: compensation and pension claims, burial benefits and services, medical and mental health referral, education and vocational rehabilitation, home loans and grant applications, employment and job placement assistance, DMV veteran designation, legal service referrals, appeal processes, programs for incarcerated veterans, as well as aid and attendance.*

###